

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EUR-12
SAJ-01 /069 W
-----101519Z 124200 /53

R 101020Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 484
INFO AMEMBASSY DACCA
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY KABUL
AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMCONSUL BOMBAY
AMCONSUL CALCUTTA
AMCONSUL MADRAS

S E C R E T NEW DELHI 0389

E.O. 11652: XGDS
TAGS: PINT, IN
SUBJECT: IMPLICATIONS FOR US OF CRUMBLING RELATIONS BETWEEN MRS.
GANDHI AND COMMUNIST PARTY OF INDIA

REF: A. NEW DELHI 146, B. KABUL 198 (NOTAL)

1. THE CONTINUING DECLINE IN RELATIONS BETWEEN THE INDIAN
COMMUNIST PARTY AND PRIME MINISTER GANDHI IS DESCRIBED
IN REF (A) AND PREVIOUS MESSAGES OVER THE LAST MONTH. EMBASSY
KABUL (REF B) CONVEYS QUERY BY AFGHAN FONMIN WAHEED ABDULLAH
AS TO WHETHER DOMESTIC CRITICISM OF CPI IN INDIA MAY BE MRS.
GANDHI'S WAY OF SENDING SIGNAL TO NEW U.S. ADMINISTRATION,
PRESUMABLY THAT INDIA IS NOT PRO-COMMUNIST OR LEANING TOWARD
SOVIETS.

2. IN THE LAST WEEK OR SO, SEVERAL OF OUR DIPLOMATIC
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COLLEAGUES AND A NUMBER OF INDIANS IN DELHI AND ELSEWHERE HAVE
POSED THIS SAME QUESTION TO US, SPECULATING THAT THE TIMING OF
THE OPEN CRITICISM OF THE COMMUNISTS AFTER THE U.S. ELECTIONS
IS MORE THAN COINCIDENCE. ACTUALLY OPEN CRITICISM OF THE CPI BY
MRS. GANDHI'S HIGHLY POLITICAL SON, SANJAY, BEGAN IN AUGUST 1975.
THE CONGRESS PARTY SIGNALLED ITS OWN EFFORT TO DISENGAGE ITSELF
FROM THE COMMUNISTS WHEN IT ALMOST TOTALLY BOYCOTTED A COMMUNIST-

ORGANIZED ANTI-FASCIST RALLY IN BIHAR IN NOVEMBER 1975 AFTER INDICATING IT WAS CO-SPONSORING THE MEETING ONLY A FEW MONTHS EARLIER. INDO-SOVIET PROBLEMS, LARGELY REVOLVING AROUND ECONOMIC ISSUES, HAVE BECOME INCREASINGLY EVIDENT OVER THE LAST YEAR AND SOVIET CONCERNS ABOUT THE LONG-TERM IMPLICATIONS OF DOMESTIC ANTI-CPI MOVES AND SANJAY GANDHI'S ANTI-COMMUNIST SENTIMENTS ARE CLEAR FROM THE REMARKS OF OUR SOVIET EMBASSY COLLEAGUES.

3. SEVERAL INDIAN POLITICIANS (NONE, HOWEVER, FORMALLY INSIDE THE GOVT) HAVE PRIVATELY SUGGESTED THAT A SITUATION HAS BEEN CREATED WHICH IS RIPE FOR U.S. "EXPLOITATION" IN TERMS OF ACCESSIBILITY AND RECEPTIVITY ON THE PART OF SENIOR INDIAN LEADERS TO APPROACHES FROM THE U.S. WHILE WELCOMING THOSE INDICATIONS DURING THE LAST YEAR OF IMPROVEMENT IN THE IVIMATE OF INDO-US RELATIONS, WE HAVE RESPONDED THAT WE ARE DUBIOUS ABOUT THE USEFULNESS OF MEASURING THE PROSPECTS FOR INDO-US RELATIONS IN TERMS OF EITHER THE DOMESTIC UPS AND DOWNS OF CONGRESS-CPI RELATIONS OR THE SPECIFIC RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN INDIA AND THE SOVIET UNION.

4. WE DOUBT THAT MRS. GANDHI'S MOTIVATIONS, OR THOSE OF HER SON, IN CRITICIZING THE INDIAN COMMUNISTS ARE RELATED TO THE SENDING OF A MESSAGE TO THE NEW U.S. ADMINISTRATION. WE BELIEVE THE MOTIVATIONS ARE ALMOST TOTALLY SVN STIC AND INDEED THAT MRS. GANDHI WOULD REACT STRONGLY AND GENUINELY AGAINST ANY SUGGESTION THAT SHE WAS OFFERING UP THE CPI AS A SACRIFICIAL LAMB TO INDO-US RELATIONS. WE DO BELIEVE THAT THE GOI AND THE PRIME MINISTER HERSELF ARE INTERESTED IN IMPROVING RELATIONS
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WITH THE U.S. AND HAVE FOR SOME TIME BEEN SIGNALING THIS IN A VARIETY OF WAYS. THE CPI ATTACKS, HOWEVER, ARE NOT AMONG THEM
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Message Attributes

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Channel Indicators: n/a
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Concepts: COMMUNISTS, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 10-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
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Format: TEL
From: NEW DELHI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770166/aaaacgdd.tel
Line Count: 101
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Litigation History:
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